1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

        Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Mr. C. Kalafut on 7/3/08.

2.   The application has been amended as follows: The claims are amended as

follows.

        1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

        receiving, at a first node of a selected plurality of nodes forming a

communication path between a source and a destination, a <u>first</u> signal from the

source, wherein the <u>first</u> signal is part of a <u>first</u> signal stream comprising a <u>first</u>

plurality of signals which are received at a rate of one signal per time interval;

        <u>interleaving the first signal and a second signal, wherein the second signal</u>

<u>is part of a second signal stream comprising a second plurality of signals;</u>

        identifying, based at least in part on a <u>lowest</u> communication rate ~~between~~

<u>along</u> the <u>communication path,</u> ~~first node and a second node,~~ a second time

interval, wherein the second time interval occurs after receipt of the <u>first</u> signal;

and

        transmitting the <u>first</u> signal <u>and the second signal</u> from the first node to <u>a</u> ~~the~~

second node <u>of the communication path</u> without a buffering delay, wherein the <u>first</u>

signal <u>and the second signal are</u> ~~is~~ transmitted during the second time interval.

    3.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

            a first node and a second node along a communication path

between a source and a destination, wherein the first node is configured to

receive a <u>first</u> signal from the source, wherein the <u>first</u> signal is part of a <u>first</u>

signal stream comprising a <u>first</u> plurality of signals which are received at a rate

of one signal per time interval; and

      a connection manager configured to

           <u>interleave the first signal and a second signal, wherein the</u>

<u>second signal is part of a second signal stream comprising a second plurality of</u>

<u>signals; and</u>

           identify, based at least in part on a <u>lowest</u> communication

rate <u>along the communication path</u> ~~between the first node and the second~~

~~node~~, a second time interval, wherein the second time interval occurs after

receipt of the <u>first</u> signal,

      wherein the first node is further configured to transmit the <u>first</u>

signal <u>and the second signal</u> to the second node during the second time

interval and without a buffering delay.

    4.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, further comprising a first

unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection and a second unidirectional virtual

dedicated circuit connection, wherein the first unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit

connection and the second unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection are used to

form the communication path.

    5.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the connection manager is

further configured to <u>time</u> multiplex the <u>first</u> signal <u>and the second signal.</u> ~~with one or~~

~~more additional signals to form a multiplexed signal, and further wherein the multiplexed~~

~~signal is transmitted from the first node to the second node during the second time~~

~~interval.~~

    6.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first Internet connected node and a second Internet connected node, wherein the

first Internet connected node is configured to receive a <u>first</u> signal from a source, and

further wherein the <u>first</u> signal is part of a <u>first</u> signal stream comprising a <u>first</u>

plurality of signals which are received by the first Internet connected node at a rate

of one signal per time interval; and

a connection manager configured to:

<u>interleave the first signal and a second signal, wherein the second</u>

<u>signal is part of a second signal stream comprising a second plurality of signals;</u>

identify a communication path between the source and a destination,

wherein the communication path includes the first Internet connected node and the second

Internet connected node; and

identify, based at least in part on a <u>lowest</u> communication rate <u>along the</u>

<u>communication path</u>, a second time interval <u>which occurs</u> after receipt of the <u>first</u> signal,

wherein the first Internet connected node is configured to transmit the <u>first</u> signal <u>and the</u>

<u>second signal</u> to the second Internet connected node during the second time interval

without a route calculation delay, and further wherein the second Internet connected node

is configured to transmit the <u>first</u> signal <u>and the second signal</u> to a third Internet connected

node along the communication path during the second time interval and without the route

calculation delay.

7.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the first Internet

connected node includes a first unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection and

the second Internet connected node includes a second unidirectional virtual dedicated

circuit connection.

8.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the <u>first</u> signal <u>and the</u>

<u>second signal are</u> ~~is~~ transmitted by the first Internet connected node and the second

Internet connected node without a buffering delay.

9.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein <u>the connection manager</u>

<u>is further configured to time</u> ~~said signal further comprises~~ multiplex~~ed data from a~~

~~second source~~ <u>the first signal and the second signal</u>.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the

communication path includes a first unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection

and a second unidirectional virtual dedicated circuit connection.

12.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein said <u>connection manager is</u>

<u>further configured to time</u> ~~signal further comprises~~ multiplex~~ed data from a second~~

~~source~~ <u>the first signal and the second signal</u>.

3.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to AJIT G. PATEL whose telephone number is 571-272-

3140. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY- FRIDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Doris TO can be reached on 571-272-7629. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/AJIT G. PATEL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2616